

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 03035 192335Z

63

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8782

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 3035

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) BR

SUBJECT: SECSTATE VISIT: PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 090519

PASS USIA FOR DIRECTOR KEOGH

1. AMBASSADOR AND PAO CONSIDER PRESS CONFERENCE AT END OF SECRETARY'S VISIT A VERY IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF SCHEDULE AND THEREFORE STRONGLY HOPE IT CAN BE CONFIRMED SHORTLY.

2. PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE VIRTUALLY THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY FOR SECRETARY TO COMMUNICATE WITH "THE PUBLIC" IN BRAZIL SINCE REST OF PROGRAM PERMITS EXPOSURE OF SECRETARY ONLY TO TIGHT CIRCLE OF HIGH GOB OFFICIALS. SINCE HIS VISIT HAS BEEN ANTICIPATED FOR A LONG TIME BY THE PRESS AND PUBLIC, WE CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE VISIT TO HAVE AT LEAST SOME PUBLIC EXPOSURE OF THE SECRETARY. THE ONLY AND BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR THIS WILL BE AT PRESS CONFERENCE, WHICH BRAZILIANS -- OFFICIALS AND PRESS -- EXPECT TO BE NATURAL AND NORMAL PART OF HIS PROGRAM HERE.

3. SECRETARY'S WIDELY KNOWN TALENT FOR HANDLING PRESS CONFERENCES WILL ENHANCE THE IMPACT OF HIS VISIT AND WILL HELP US ARTICULATE U.S. VIEWS AND POLICIES IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE POSSIBLE WAY.

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4. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE WOULD BE WIDESPREAD AND VOCAL

DISAPPOINTMENT AND CRITICISM IF PRESS CONFERENCE WERE NOT
TO TAKE PLACE, WITH PROBABLE ACCUSATIONS THAT SECRETARY
DUCKED THE PRESS."
CRIMMINS

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